BENGALURU, TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 25 | Min 21 | Humidity 84% Light rain Sensex 82,176 | Nifty 25,001 | Gold 95,968 | Silver 98,054 | Dollar 85.12 | Euro 96.86 | GBP 115.43

PAGE 3

DONATION EXTORTION

People posing as devotees demand money and if refused, resort to abuse, threats

RAINY DAY BLUES

B'luru records its highest-ever cumulative rainfall for May, with 307.9 mm so far

PAGE 6

With several acts of violence being reported in state of inebriation or due to denial of money to buy liquor, experts explain how intoxication amplifies aggression in addicts

THE DEMON DRINK

In 2 years, B'luru saw 600 cases of cruelty by husband

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PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

Yet another case of violent crime fuelled by the need for alcohol has emerged in the city. Last week, a beautician was attacked at her home in NMH Layout by her husband with toilet cleaning acid after she asked him to lower the volume of music playing on his mobile phone.

Police confirmed details of the crime on Saturday. They revealed that the accused had demanded money for alcohol from his wife a day prior to the crime. The woman sustained facial injuries from the attack and is now undergoing treatment.

Behind closed doors of ordinary homes, a silent epidemic is unraveling one that rarely makes headlines. A troubling surge in domestic violence incidents linked to alcohol abuse is gripping households across the city.

According to police data, just within four months, a total of 340 cases have been registered in the state under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code and Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), specifically relating to cruelty by husbands, excluding dowry-related demands. These cases involve various forms of mental and physical harassment inflicted by husbands on their wives, highlighting the continued prevalence of domestic abuse in households beyond dowry issues within the marital home.

According to the National Commission for Women data, nearly six out of ten domestic violence complaints in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"It (intoxication) gives a kind of twisted permission to act out unchecked anger. And unfortunately, the victims are usually those closest — wives, children, parents

—Dr Lakshmi Shashikumar, Maayra Emotional Wellness Centre

Look what the rain dragged in

BBMP's Lake dept had asked its SWD dept to prevent sewage, garbage inflow during rain, but no action was taken

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The sad state of some lakes in the city of lakes proves that there is complete breakdown of communication between the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Lakes Department and the Storm Water Drains (SWD) department engineers. Whenever it rains heavily, all the lakes get polluted and activists have been complaining to the BBMP Lakes Department about this.

They had given heads-up to the authorities concerned to take measures to prevent sewage and garbage flowing into the water bodies but no proactive action was taken.

PAGE 2: LAKES IN DISTRESS

The result is for all to see: Most of the lakes in Bengaluru East are polluted. Seegehalli Lake, Vibhuthipura Lake, Kowdenahalli Lake, and Nagareshwara Nagenahalli Lake are full of sewage and garbage that was carried by storm water drains during the recent rain. The BBMP spent a huge amount of money for the rejuvenation of these lakes. Now, these lakes have become an eyesore and a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Poetic evening

Urban Solace Café is hosting Varsha Kalyani, a poet and an educator, for this 'Tuesdays with the Bard @ Urban Solace' edition. **Where: Urban Solace Café, Ulsoor; When: May 27, 7.30 pm**

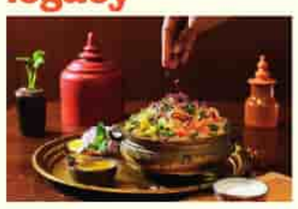
02 Drama unfolds

ECTA and Tritiyo Sutra Production, in collaboration with ENAD Bengaluru, are presenting 'Shikhandi', which powerfully explores the concept of gender identity and vengeance, revealing the deep-rooted gender politics at play in Mahabharata. **Where: Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield; When: May 31, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm**

03 Fleeting moments

Ranga Shankara is presenting 'Love Letters- Ninna Preetiya, Naanu!', a play about friendship, missed chances, and the kind of connection that refuses to fade. It's a reminder that sometimes the words we write live longer than the moments we live. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: May 29 and 30, 7.30 pm**

04 Culinary legacy



Curated by Khansama Nasir Hussain, who carries over three decades of culinary tradition from Rampur, 'Rampuri Festival', a celebration of one of India's most refined and lesser-known royal cuisines, is offering an opportunity to experience the region's authentic flavours and timeless elegance. **Where: Spice Terrace, JW Marriott Hotel; When: May 23 to June 1, 6.30 pm to 11 pm**

05 Comic relief

After the success of 'Bas Kar Bassi', Anubhav Bassi is coming back to perform live, bringing a whole new set of funny stories and jokes to entertain the audience. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: May 30, 7.30 pm**

Report reveals worst water quality in 47 lakes

Despite Water Act mandating action, State Pollution Control Board has only been monitoring water quality of lakes without acting against polluters, say experts

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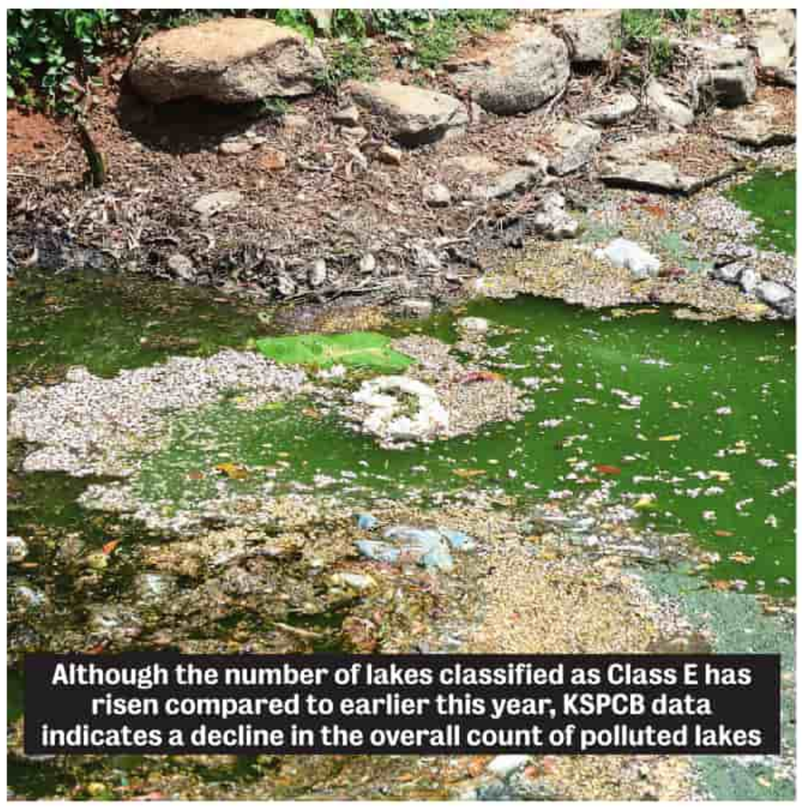

Although the number of lakes classified as Class E has risen compared to earlier this year, KSPCB data indicates a decline in the overall count of polluted lakes

The recent water quality report by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has highlighted that nearly 41% of Bengaluru's lakes are highly polluted. While 115 water bodies were tested for 34 parameters, 47 were categorised under Class E, the worst water quality possible. The number of lakes with the worst water quality in January this year was 33, while in February the number rose to 39.

City-based lake activists said that it is disappointing that none of the lake management goals are being met despite the Centre's ongoing National Water Monitoring Program (NWMP). Bengaluru lakes are still under threat from various issues, including unabated encroachment, entry of sewage, and a lack of basic maintenance.

While the country's Water Act mandates a comprehensive program to prevent and control pollution of water bodies, experts opined that this aspect has always been missing with the KSPCB. The board has only been monitoring the water quality of lakes without taking any action against the polluters.

The sad state of Bengaluru's lakes has drawn the attention of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on multiple occasions in the past. In one of the instances, following a news report by BM last year, the tribunal had issued notices to KSPCB, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), and Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCDA) due to critically low oxygen levels (below detection level) in 12 out of 117 lakes that were checked by KSPCB.

Silver lining?

Although the number of lakes classified as Class E has risen compared to earlier this year, KSPCB data indicates a decline in the overall count of polluted lakes in Bengaluru.

In the corresponding period in 2024 and 2023, nearly 50% of the lakes studied were found to be heavily polluted.

"The number of lakes with Class E water quality keeps fluctuating, and there is not much difference between 52 lakes with the worst water quality last year in comparison to 47 lakes this year. The rest of the water bodies fall under class D," said a city-based lake activist, highlighting that not even a single lake being monitored by KSPCB has Class B or Class C water quality. "The Pollution Control Board has failed in its duties," said the activist.

In the corresponding period in 2024 and 2023, nearly 50% of the lakes studied were found to be heavily polluted

'Sarala Cauvery' scheme receives subpar response

Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board's (BWSSB) 'Sarala Cauvery' scheme, launched to facilitate city residents in obtaining Cauvery water connections by allowing pro-rata fee payments in easy installments, has seen a disappointing response. So far, only 144 applicants have applied for water connections under the scheme. Under the Cauvery Phase 5 project, 775 million litres per day (MLD) of water is being supplied, benefitting 110 villages and other surrounding areas. The project has increased the city's water supply capacity by 22.25 million litres per day. The target set under Phase 5 was to provide 400,000 new water connections. The water board has been making efforts to achieve this goal and formally launched the 'Sarala Cauvery' scheme on May 2. However, the anticipated public response has not materialised.

Two months' time allowed for payment

The 'Sarala Cauvery' scheme offers residents who are unable to pay the full fee upfront an option to get a water connection by paying 20% of the fee as a demand notice amount, with the remaining 80% payable in 12 monthly installments (EMIs). This facility is valid for two months. However, this installment option is not available for industrial and commercial buildings, limiting the scheme's applicability to residential consumers only. The water board hopes that this flexible payment plan will encourage more residents to apply and ease access to Cauvery water connections across the city. **— BMB**

Students with fever symptoms instructed to take leave

Amidst a slight rise in COVID-19 positive cases, especially in Bengaluru, the Health Department has taken necessary precautionary measures, said Health Minister Dinesh Gundurao. Speaking to the media after participating in a high-level meeting led by Chief Minister (CM) Siddaramaiah at the CM's residence in Kaveri today regarding COVID control, the minister said that the CM has directed authorities to be fully prepared to tackle the situation.

The minister said that the Health Department has already issued COVID guidelines, and officials are in continuous contact with the Central Government to monitor the situation closely. He said that to prevent the spread of COVID-19 amongst children, it is essential to take precautions. He highlighted that parents must be cautious and avoid sending children with fever and cold symptoms to school. Similarly, school management should grant leave to students exhibiting fever symptoms. The government will issue guidelines accordingly, said the minister.

The minister noted that testing kits have been distributed to hospitals across the state. Approximately 5,000 RT PCR testing kits have been procured and are expected to arrive by tomorrow. Currently, as the number of COVID-19 infections remain low, mandatory testing at VRDL centers is conducted only for patients with respiratory or heart ailments. As a precaution, instructions have been given to purchase Remdesivir injections. The current COVID strain is Omicron JN1, which exhibits milder symptoms. The minister reassured that although there has been a slight increase in positive cases, it is not a matter of serious concern, and hence the public need not panic.

Although there is no situation of alarm, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has instructed to keep essential resources like ventilators, oxygen, and medicines ready. Elderly individuals, pregnant women, and patients with heart or respiratory problems are advised to wear masks as a preventive measure. A technical committee meeting will be held weekly to issue necessary directives.**— BMB**

Controversy erupts over MA Saleem's appointment

The Karnataka government has appointed senior IPS officer Dr MA Saleem as the in-charge Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG & IGP) following the retirement of Dr Alok Mohan on May 21. However, the move has sparked a legal challenge, with Bengaluru-based advocates filing a formal representation demanding a stay on the appointment.

Sudha Katwa, one of the advocates, argued that the appointment violates the Supreme Court's binding directives in the Prakash Singh case, which prohibit the appointment of 'acting' or 'in-charge' DGPs except under rare and exceptional circumstances. She emphasised that the government failed to provide any justification for bypassing the mandatory selection process, which includes submitting a panel of eligible officers to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and ensuring a minimum two-year tenure. The representation, addressed to the Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary (Home), Principal Secretary (DPAR), and the UPSC Secretary, alleged that the appointment was made without transparency, tenure specification, or adherence to legal norms.

Calling the move unconstitutional and unlawful, Sudha has demanded the immediate withdrawal of Dr MA Saleem's appointment and initiation of a regular appointment process in line with Supreme Court guidelines. She warned that failure to act within seven days could result in a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) or a contempt petition. **— BMB**

Ask for donation & if anyone says no, turn to extortion

Citizens report being threatened, abused by alm-seekers, who invoke religion to demand money

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In a troubling way of asking money that has surfaced in parts of the city, a few self-proclaimed devotees are allegedly misusing religion to demand money from unsuspecting pedestrians and shopkeepers. What begins as a pious-sounding plea in the name of God often takes a sinister turn of threats, abuse, and even stone-pelting, when the demand is denied.

Several such incidents have been reported from various areas in Bengaluru, where small groups of individuals often dressed as ascetics approach people claiming to be on a divine mission or conducting religious rituals. Invoking God's name and chanting loudly, they demand "dakshina" (donation) in a manner that borders on coercion.

Refusing or hesitating to offer money, according to multiple witnesses, has resulted in verbal abuse and, in extreme cases, physical assault. In a recent incident near a multiplex in Marathahalli, a pedestrian waiting at a bus stop was reportedly attacked with stones after declining to donate. The video of the incident, which went viral on social media, shows one of the individuals from the group shouting, cursing, and eventually picking up a stone and hurling it at the pedestrian.

Rise in street harassment under the veil of devotion

Another case, reported two days ago near Indiranagar, had a similar pattern. "I have seen them in action near Indiranagar. They were targeting pedestrians with ease," said a local resident who witnessed the incident.

Police have confirmed that these are not isolated events. "We have received a few complaints, and patrolling has been intensified in sensitive zones," said a senior officer from the Marathahalli police station. "However, most of these individuals operate in small, mobile groups, making it hard to trace them unless we receive immediate information. If a complaint is filed, we will take action under extortion charges."

Residents from Koramangala expressed concern that misusing religious attire and language for extortion not only compromises public safety but also manipulates people's faith.

Public outcry and calls for stronger policing

On social media, many users echoed similar experiences. One post described an incident where a young woman near a metro station was asked for ₹10, but when she handed over a ₹500 note, the individual took it and refused to return the change. "He kept the note in his mouth and refused to give it back," a witness stated.

Others described encounters in Electronic City and Whitefield, saying such behaviour has become increasingly common. "A man came with a large photo of Shani Dev on a trolley and demanded money. When I refused, he began cursing me loudly. The more I ignored him, the worse it got," said one user.

In and around Kundalahalli signal near Whitefield, a resident described repeated harassment by a group of trans persons who frequently demanded money from men near a parking lot. "They demanded ₹1,000. I gave ₹100, but they weren't satisfied. Eventually, they snatched the ₹100," he said. The same group later stopped him again and took items from his grocery bag, including a ghee box. He claims to have lost nearly ₹1,200 in just two days despite his attempts to avoid them.

Arundathi G Heggade, president of the Arundathi Foundation and general secretary of the Karnataka Mangalamuki Foundation, stated, "Asking for money isn't inherently wrong, it depends on a person's situation. But we do not support or encourage extortion. Demanding large sums or threatening people is a criminal offense and must be addressed seriously."

Vinod Jacob of the Namma Bengaluru Foundation added, "The rising instances of street begging have led to extortion in some cases. Citizens are being threatened or abused when they refuse to give alms. Routine checks by beat police and identifying repeat offenders are essential, especially since many citizens hesitate to approach the police."

> **"The instances of street begging have led to extortion in some cases. Citizens are being threatened or abused when they refuse to give alms**
>
> —Vinod Jacob, Namma Bengaluru Foundation

ED seizes assets in KBDC scam

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru Zonal Office, has provisionally attached immovable properties worth ₹26.27 crore estimated to be valued at around ₹40 crore in the current market—under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

The assets belong to B K Nagarajappa, Ms R Leelavathy, and other accused individuals involved in a high-profile misappropriation case linked to the Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation (KBDC). According to the ED, the investigation revealed that Nagarajappa, then General Manager of KBDC, and Leelavathy, then Managing Director, in collusion with middlemen and associates, diverted public funds by disbursing loans and subsidies to over 750 fake beneficiaries through fictitious accounts.

The siphoned-off funds were allegedly funnelled into several shell firms Adithya Enterprises, Somanatheswara Enterprises, New Dreams Enterprises, Harntiha Creations, and Annika Enterprises reportedly controlled by Nagarajappa and his associates. These funds were used to purchase properties, make payments to intermediaries, and fund a lavish lifestyle.

Temple pass dispute turns ugly

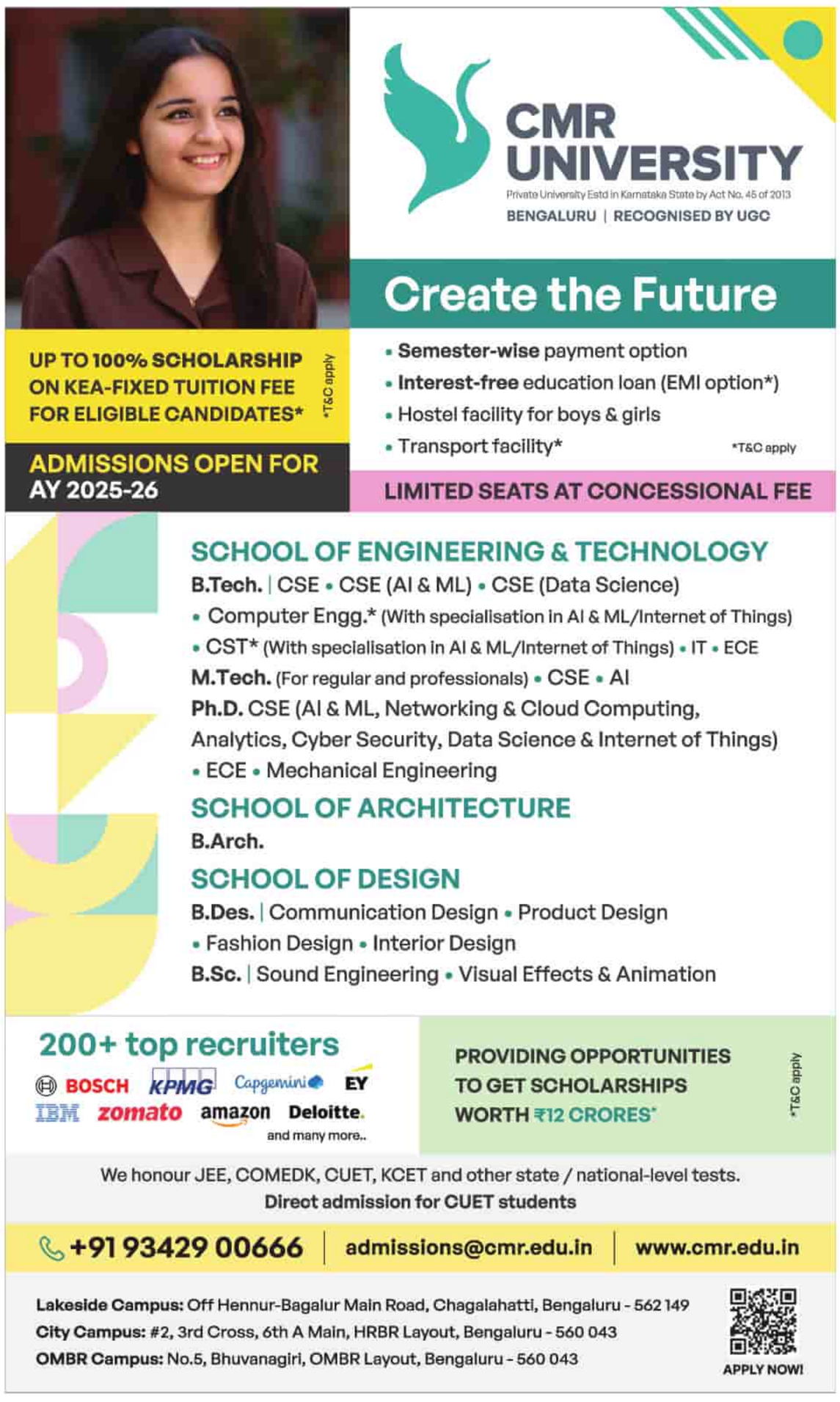
A dispute over the issuance of a pass for the Bandemahakali temple escalated into a heated confrontation between temple priest Shashikumar and a local man, Ramesh, on Saturday.

According to a police complaint filed by Shashikumar at the Kempegowda Nagar police station, Ramesh, who works at a garage in Chamarajpet, allegedly used abusive language and repeatedly pressured him to issue a pass to visit his friends at the temple. Shashikumar said he declined, citing that such requests were not allowed.

The situation reportedly escalated when Shashikumar visited Ramesh's residence in Chamarajpet, where a verbal altercation occurred. Shashikumar claims he was abused and taken to the police station against his will.

A counter-complaint has also been registered, accusing Shashikumar of using abusive language. However, no official complaint has been filed by Ramesh personally.

The Kempegowda Nagar police are investigating both sides of the incident. No arrests have been made so far. **BMB**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BBMP to issue notices to tax evading owners

Over 4 lakh property owners under scanner for false declarations; drone and satellite data reveal large-scale tax evasion across Bengaluru wards

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is preparing to issue notices to over four lakh property owners who are suspected of evading property tax by furnishing incorrect details about their properties. This action follows a detailed analysis based on data from the Digitally Owned Number (DON) Survey.

Despite there being more than 20 lakh properties within BBMP limits, the civic body is currently collecting just under ₹5,000 crore annually in property tax—far below potential collections. Officials have observed that a significant number of property owners have exploited the self-declaration system, underreporting property size to reduce their tax liability.

Drone survey reveals massive property tax under reporting

Drone survey and satellite data

An official said, "To counter this, BBMP's revenue department has now turned to data collected from the Drone survey and UPR (Urban Property Ownership Records), which cover details of around 15 lakh properties. In addition, BBMP has collected GPS-based photos and data for each property. These are being matched with ownership records and supporting documents, including those submitted for e-Khata registration, to identify discrepancies. If mismatches are found—such as undeclared floor space or incorrect height and number of floors—property owners will receive formal notices."

Officials found many property owners misused the self-declaration system by under reporting property size to intentionally lower their property tax payments

Notices likely from June 1

Source said that with a target of collecting ₹6,000 crore in property tax for the 2025-26 fiscal year, BBMP is offering a 5% rebate for those who pay their dues by May 31. From June onward, BBMP will begin issuing notices ward-wise to defaulters and long-term evaders. In extreme cases, officials said, properties may even be seized or auctioned.

Automatic notices via SMS

An official added, "BBMP is also developing technology that will allow automatic issuance of notices via SMS to the registered mobile numbers of property owners who provided false information on the BBMP property tax portal. Officials confirmed to Kannada Prabha that around 4 lakh such cases have already been identified, and notices will be sent out shortly."

₹1,000 cr in additional tax recovery expected

According to BBMP officials, the revenue department has so far identified four lakh properties with incorrect self-declarations. With more under scrutiny, BBMP anticipates recovering an additional ₹1,000 crore in property tax and penalties in the coming months. As of Sunday, BBMP has collected ₹2,036 crore in property tax. With just a few days left in May, the civic body is aiming to cross the ₹3,000 crore mark before the rebate window closes.

Activists oppose restroom charges at metro stations

Protesters demand BMRCL roll back toilet user fees, fearing future charges for lifts and escalators; urge state intervention immediately

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A group of activists staged a protest in front of Dr BR Ambedkar Metro Station demanding withdrawal of user fees introduced by the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) recently. The BMRCL began charging for toilet use at select stations recently. It is believed the BMRCL outsourced the maintenance of the toilets at 12 stations. Now, the passengers have to pay Rs 2 for using urinals and Rs 5 for the toilets.

T Narasimha Murthy, an activist, recalled how Jalahalli police had registered a case against him for protesting at the inaugural function of Namma Metro at Nagasandra Metro Station on May 1, 2015. "I protested against the BMRCL for not providing basic amenities. Later, I lodged a complaint with Lokayukta against the BMRCL. The Lokayukta had directed the BMRCL to provide basic amenities at Namma Metro Stations", said Murthy. He said there were no problems for the last 10 years but now the BMRCL authorities have introduced the user fee on Metro passengers who use the restrooms at select Metro Stations. "I am afraid that the BMRCL authorities may impose user fees on passengers for using lift and escalator facilities at the Namma Metro Stations", he said.

HM Venkatesh, an activist, demanded the BMRCL authorities withdraw the user fees for using the restrooms at select Namma Metro Stations as it would affect the passengers who are already suffering due to the hike in metro fare. "It is unfair to collect the user fees for using the restrooms. I demand the state government to take measures to stop collecting the user fees at BMTC and KSRTC Bus Stations", said Venkatesh.

> **"I am afraid that the BMRCL authorities may impose user fees on passengers for using lift and escalator facilities at the Namma Metro Stations**
> – T Narasimha Murthy: an activist

A group of volunteers stating a protest in front of Dr BR Ambekdar Metro Station near Vidhana Soudha on Monday

Former minister B Lalitha Naik, who took part in the protest, said that the user fees would be a burden on Namma Metro passengers. "I am of the opinion that the authorities have to take measures to stop collecting the user fees not only at the Namma Metro Stations but also at the BMTC and the KSRTC Bus Stations", said Naik.

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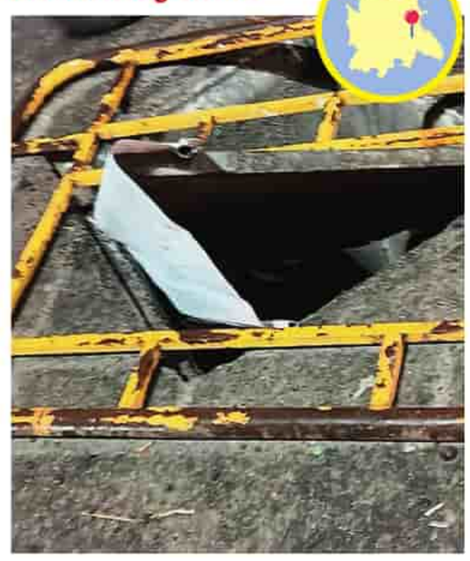
Waste zone

Chickpet

Piles of uncleared garbage have been lying for days on 10th Cross RT Street, opposite a shop near a salon in Chickpet Ward, raising serious hygiene concerns among residents.

Road danger

Broadway Road


Three broken chamber covers have remained unrepaired for over two weeks on HKP Road in Shivajinagar, posing a serious threat to pedestrians and motorists.

Pole hazard

Rajarajeshwari Nagar

An electric pole was damaged on Double Road in Rajarajeshwari Nagar after a lorry snagged a cable, creating a serious hazard for residents and commuters.

Insurance firm told to pay up

In a significant ruling emphasising the importance of concrete evidence in judicial proceedings, the Karnataka High Court has instructed an insurance firm to remit 70 per cent of the updated compensation for a fatal collision involving a stationary lorry and a young motorcyclist.

"Merely making allegations without substantiating the same with cogent evidence would not serve the purpose," noted the division bench, consisting of Justice KS Mudagal and Justice MGS Kamal.

The case involves 23-year-old Bipin from Bengaluru, who died on March 6, 2016. He was riding his motorcycle near a railway bridge on Bengaluru-Ballari main road at 1.45 am when he crashed into a parked lorry.

Subsequently, an unidentified vehicle hit him, causing fatal injuries.

The victim's parents, N Nagesh and Vedavati Bai, requested Rs 2 crore as compensation. The tribunal granted Rs 9,74,000 with 6% interest in 2018, attributing responsibility to the negligently parked lorry.

HDFC Ergo Insurance contested the ruling, claiming that the policy began on March 7, 2016, one day after the incident, and alleged that the policy document submitted by the claimants was 'fraudulent'. The parents also challenged the tribunal's assessment of Bipin's monthly earnings at Rs 9,000.

The High Court found no documentary proof supporting the parents' income claims and utilised Karnataka State Legal Services Authority's chart, which indicated a notional income of Rs 9,500 for 2016.

The court noted the insurer's failure to substantiate its serious allegation regarding a 'fraudulent' policy.

The judges emphasised, "Since the respondent-insurance company has taken a specific and serious stand of the lorry owner obtaining a fake policy, it ought to have discharged the burden in the manner known to law." **BMB**

Chief Justice pick

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended that Justice Vibhu Bakhru be appointed as the Chief Justice of Karnataka.

The Karnataka Chief Justice position will become vacant following the Central government's approval of Chief Justice SV Anjari's elevation to the Supreme Court.

The Collegium, led by Chief Justice of India BR Gavai, put forth this recommendation.

The Karnataka Chief Justice role will be unoccupied once the Central government approves the Collegium's recommendation to elevate Chief Justice SV Anjaria to the Supreme Court. Born in Nagpur in 1966, Justice Bakhru attended Delhi Public School, Mathura Road, New Delhi. He earned his Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) from Delhi University in 1987 and became a Chartered Accountant in 1989.

After obtaining his LLB degree in 1990, he registered with the Bar Council of Delhi that year. Justice Bakhru established his legal career, practising before various institutions, including the Supreme Court, Delhi High Court, Company Law Board and other tribunals.

In July 2011, he received the designation of Senior Advocate.

He joined the Delhi High Court as an additional judge on April 17, 2013, and was confirmed as a permanent judge on March 18, 2015. **BMB**

Biodiversity panel needs more hands on the deck

'Conservation work needs significant effort so increasing number of members would be beneficial given vast scope of responsibility'

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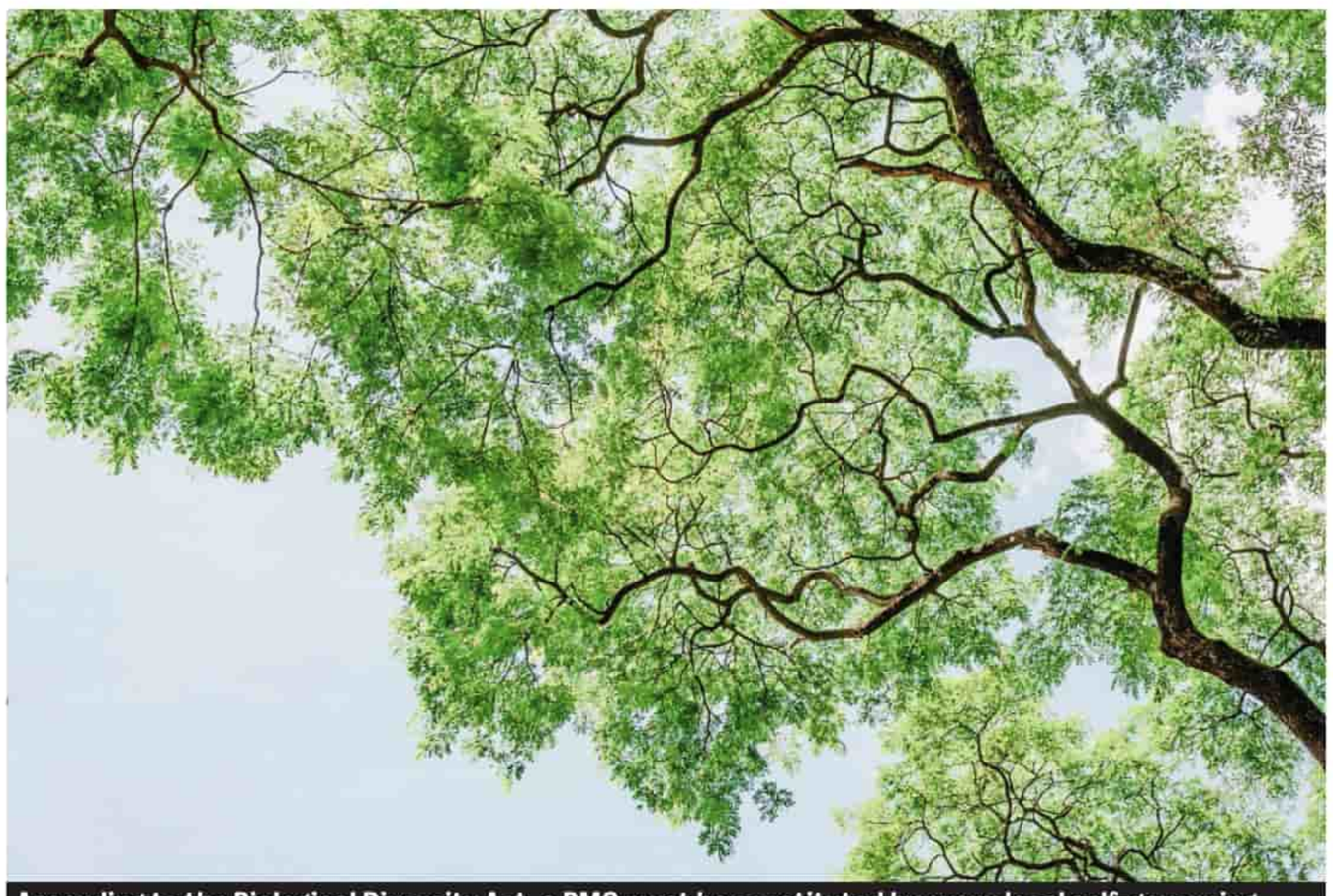

According to the Biological Diversity Act, a BMC must be constituted by every local self-governing institution in rural and urban areas

Bengaluru's Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) is functioning in violation of the Biological Diversity Act. While the Act mandates a minimum of seven members to be part of BMCs, Bengaluru's BMC currently has only five members.

According to the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act of 2023, the composition of the Biodiversity Management Committee may be prescribed by the state government, provided that the number of members of the said committee is not less than seven and not exceeding eleven.

The Act mandates that Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) members must be nominated by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the local governing body. Additionally, BBMP must also elect the BMC chairperson from amongst the nominated members, ensuring the role is held by an expert in biodiversity conservation and benefit sharing.

The BMC members that spoke to BM agreed that the number of members should be increased, given the vast scope of responsibility.

"Bengaluru is a big city, and BMC's responsibilities are extensive. For instance, updating the city's biodiversity register will require tremendous legwork. Thus, increasing the number of members will prove beneficial," said Vijay Nishant, a current member of BMC, highlighting that care should be taken to ensure that only those who have on-ground experience are brought in.

According to the Biological Diversity Act, a BMC must be constituted by every local self-governing institution in rural and urban areas. The committee should then create the biodiversity register, a repository of traditional knowledge of local biological resources. The idea behind a People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) is to ensure conservation and sustainable use of biological resources while securing equitable sharing of benefits that come from these resources.

Notably, BMC's biodiversity conservation work is going at snail's pace in Bengaluru. While the committee was formulated in 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic led to zero progress made for a couple of years. BBMP then revived the committee in 2023, following which, BMC submitted a financial plan in May 2024 for all operations, including updating the long-pending PBR.

Objective of PBR

Experts said that the objective of a PBR is to make information on local resources available to every citizen. In the absence of such a document, there is no way of knowing the changes in the city's biodiversity over the last decade.

The committee had submitted a zone-wise draft budget of Rs 14.85 lakh to document the biodiversity of Rajarajeshwari Nagar and update the PBR accordingly.

However, this effort faced a major setback after the Urban Development Department rejected the draft budget in December last year and asked the civic agency to restart the process afresh. The proposal was supposed to be included in BBMP's next budget, which was in March this year.

According to the Biological Diversity Act, a BMC must be constituted by every local self-governing institution in rural and urban areas, which should then create the biodiversity register

However, sources in BBMP confirmed that the BMC budget this year was delayed as there was no draft budget prepared by the committee after the first draft was scrapped.

"The next budget is yet to be finalised, and thus it was not part of the budget in March," said an official.

IN BRIEF

Child dies in fall after traffic cops stopped bike

Tragedy struck in Mandya when a three-year-old child named Ritiksha died after falling from a bike that was stopped by police for a fine. The child was riding with her parents from their village to Mandya when the police, stationed to issue fines to vehicles coming from Maddur towards Mandya, signalled the bike to stop. According to family members, the police suddenly stopped the bike near Swarnasandra. As the driver lost control after one officer grabbed the bike, the child fell onto the road and suffered a severe head injury. A tempo coming from behind ran over the child, resulting in her death. Ritiksha's uncle said that they were heading to Mandya hospital because the child had been bitten by a dog. He said, "The police stopped us despite my telling them the child was unwell. One officer then told me to move on, so I started the bike, but another policeman grabbed it, causing me to lose control. The child fell, and then a tempo hit her." The incident has sparked widespread condemnation of the police's actions, with calls for a thorough investigation into the circumstances that led to this tragic loss. **BMB**

Cash, gold gone, homealone woman murdered

A 40-year-old woman was found murdered at her home near Durga Road under the Cottonpet police station limits on Monday. The deceased, identified as Latha, a homemaker, who was from Bidar, was alone at home when the crime took place.

Police said the assailant entered the house around 11 am, smothered Latha to death, and fled with 150 grams of gold ornaments and Rs 2 lakh in cash. The murder came to light when Latha's husband, Prakash, who runs a wholesale clothing business, returned home for lunch and discovered her lifeless body. He immediately alerted the police.

Latha is survived by her husband, a daughter, and a son. The family was reportedly preparing for their daughter's wedding, leading police to suspect that the assailant might be someone known to the family and aware of their financial situation. **BMB**

Pitfalls on road

Several roads in the city are seen in a bad condition after the recent rain, on Monday. A potholed Kondajji Basappa Road in V V Puram; Motorists struggle to navigate JC Road

May rain in B'luru sweeps all records

All five highest May rainfall totals recorded in the last decade, signalling shifting patterns and escalating concerns over climate variability and urban preparedness

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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Bengaluru has recorded its highest-ever cumulative rainfall for the month of May, with 307.9 mm measured between May 1 and May 26, 2025. This surpasses the previous all-time May record of 305.4 mm set in 2023, marking a new milestone in the city's weather history.

What stands out is that the top five highest May rainfall records for Bengaluru have all occurred within the past decade, highlighting a significant shift in rainfall patterns. These include 307.9 mm in 2025, 305.4 mm in 2023, 270.4 mm in 2022, 241.9 mm in 2017, and 239.8 mm in 2018. The consistent increase in May rainfall over recent years has raised concerns among meteorologists, who attribute the trend to changing climatic conditions and intensified pre-monsoon activity.

With relentless rains battering Malnad taluks over the past week, the Gajanur Tunga Reservoir near Shivamogga reached full capacity on Sunday. Authorities opened four crest gates to release 7,500 cusecs of water into the Tunga River as a precaution.

Yagachi Reservoir in Hassan nears full capacity at 3,160.10 feet, just below its 3,162.92 feet limit, as early monsoon rains trigger an unusual overflow in May, raising concerns and attention

Heavy rainfall in Sringeri and Thirthahalli has sharply increased inflow into the reservoir. Despite the monsoon yet to officially begin, the early filling has forced water discharge, with officials warning more gates may be opened if inflows rise further. The Linganamakki dam inflow stood at 10,954 cusecs with the water level at 1,764 feet. Other dams, including Mani, Pick-Up, Chakra, and Savehaklu, also reported rising levels.

In Kodagu, incessant rainfall over two days has caused severe disruption in Madikeri, Virajpet, and Ponnampet taluks. Rivers and streams have overflowed, submerging the Triveni Sangama at Bhagamandala for the first time in years, flooding nearby parks and paddy fields. Residents around Bhagamandala's Bhagandeshwara Temple face waterlogging woes. A massive tree fell near Guddehosur, blocking traffic completely.

Meanwhile, heavy rains in Maharashtra's Krishna basin have caused a sharp rise in inflow to the Almatti reservoir in Vijayapura. Since last Monday, steady rains in the Krishna catchment area have pushed inflows from 4,905 cusecs on Saturday to 34,939 cusecs on Sunday morning, adding 3 TMC of water in a single day. The Almatti reservoir, with a total capacity of 123.081 TMC at full level (519.60 meters), held 27.284 TMC at a water level of 509.44 meters on Sunday, with outflow usage at 630 cusecs.

Steps to install sluice gates

BBMP Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao said, "Out of 210 identified flood-prone locations in the city, problems at 166 sites have already been resolved. Zone commissioners are instructed to verify these and provide confirmation. For the remaining 44 sites, officials are directed to implement immediate temporary relief measures while also planning for permanent solutions.

The traffic police department has submitted a list of places where water logging causes traffic congestion during rains. BBMP oversees 183 lakes, of which 13 already have sluice gates installed. For lakes with sluice gates, water levels must be lowered to allow rainwater storage. Authorities are instructed to prepare plans to install sluice gates in other lakes progressively.

Whither our city?

SAHIL MATHEW

BY INVITATION

mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

The past week has been bleak in Bengaluru. What initially brought relief to the hot summers quickly turned into a nightmare. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the city has already breached the 100 mm rainfall/day mark this month, classifying the event as 'heavy rainfall'. The high-intensity rains over the past few days have disrupted lives, resulting in waterlogged roads, submerged underpasses, overflowing drains, fallen trees, and widespread power outages.

This deluge, however, is not an isolated incident. Our analysis has shown that between 1990 and 2025, rainfall in May has seen a 130% increase, reflecting that May is gradually getting wetter with each passing year. IMD data also indicate that the city has experienced above-average rainfall in May over the past three years. Furthermore, the IMD has predicted moderate-to-heavy rainfall over the next few days as a result of the advancing southwest monsoon, underlining the urgent need for advance planning.

Historically sustained by its extensive network of interconnected tanks, Bengaluru has witnessed encroachment, real estate booms, and sordid urban planning over the years. All these factors have led to a decline in the number of lakes and the natural interconnections between them. In its place are buildings, roads, malls and offices. Just as many Indigenous people teach, 'water never forgets', the tanks and their interconnections also have never forgotten. Water continues to flow through the interconnections, often inundating areas that were previously lakebeds and contributing to localised flooding.

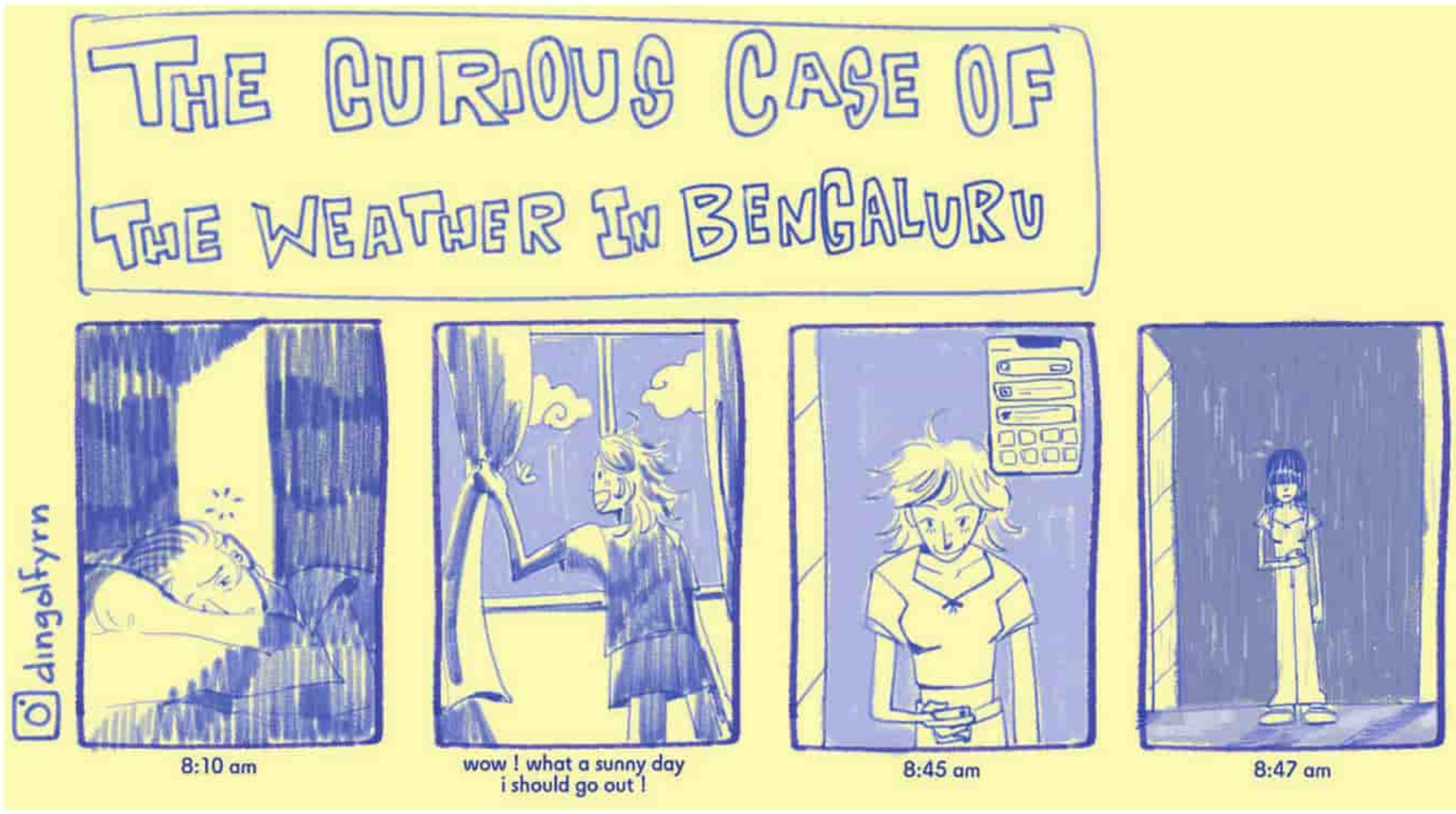
Moreover, stormwater drains (SWDs) in the city are not equipped to handle the type of rainfall intensities we are seeing today. Improper de-silting of drains and mixing of sewage with run-off drains also cause many SWDs to overflow. The removed silt, often placed right outside the drain, is washed back into the drain with the subsequent rainfall. The contamination of solid waste in drains further exacerbates blockage, choking entry and exit points and causing a backflow of sewage and run-off into the roads during heavy rainfall episodes.

Given the current season, we must anticipate instances of flooding well into the monsoon period as well unless immediate action is taken. In the short term, i.e. the next 2–3 months, de-clogging of the drainage network must be prioritised so that the run-off is able to drain smoothly. Since the Bengaluru Traffic Police act as the first responders during flood events, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) must collaborate with the traffic police to determine site-specific problems and implement sensible, contextual solutions. Moreover, offices located in flood-prone areas must implement a pre-emptive work-from-home policy (WFH) during heavy rainfall days. This will support emergency response efforts undertaken by BBMP and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). This would not only reduce commuter stress and road congestion but also help the respective city departments focus on flood mitigation rather than being limited to traffic management alone.

At present, SWDs receive limited attention under the Revised Master Plan for Bengaluru (2031) and BBMP's existing master plan for drainage. Over the coming year, the state must focus on building a comprehensive SWD policy while ensuring coordinated efforts by all relevant line departments. Comprehensive SWD drain audits, especially of tertiary drains, will allow for a more granular understanding of flooding in the city. Considering the impacts of accelerating climate change and the rate of urbanisation, it is important to redesign the SWDs to adapt to higher-intensity rainfall events. More importantly, there is a dire need to ensure that sewage and run-off are separated. If strictly implemented, the city can explore constructing recharge wells within the SWDs to help refill its parched aquifers, especially given that almost 50% of the city relies on groundwater for its domestic demands.

Without swift and coordinated action, the risk of recurrent and severe urban flooding will only accelerate. It is essential that all stakeholders commit to building a cleaner, more resilient, and liveable city that we can truly call Namma Bengaluru.

The author works in the area of Adaptation and Risk Analysis at the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), a research-based think tank.



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K'taka challenges TDR order to Mysuru Royals

The Karnataka government has filed an application before the Chief Justice of India's bench, challenging the grant of Transferable Development Rights (TDR) to members of the Mysuru royal family over the acquisition of 15 acres of Bangalore Palace Grounds. A Supreme Court bench, comprising Justice MM Sundresh and Justice Aravind Kumar, had on May 22 directed the issuance of TDRs worth ₹3,000 crore to the royal family for the land acquired for a road-widening project in Bengaluru.

Appearing for the state government, senior advocate Kapil Sibal sought urgent listing of the matter. Chief Justice B.R. Gavai agreed to hear the case on Tuesday.

Sibal argued that TDRs can only be granted under a 2004 amendment and cannot be applied retrospectively to acquisitions made earlier. "The Palace Grounds were acquired under a 1996 law, with compensation fixed at ₹11 crore," he noted.

He said the law was upheld by the High Court, and the matter has been pending before the apex court since 1997. "It's been 28 years, and the TDR provision didn't exist back then," he said.

The royal family's counsel informed the court that the TDR certificates were issued last Friday.

Chief Justice Gavai questioned whether one Supreme Court bench could revisit the decision of another. Sibal clarified he was not seeking a review, only raising concerns over retrospective application of the law.

On January 30, the Karnataka Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, decided to take control of the Palace Grounds.

Law Minister HK Patil said the December 2024 Supreme Court order made the road project unviable, calling the compensation against public interest. Maharani Pramoda Devi Wadiyar said the family would pursue legal action if wronged. – IANS

BM Trippin' Tales

Public gains entry to Vidhana Soudha in historic guided tour

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Until now, visitors could only take photos outside the gates of Karnataka's iconic Vidhana Soudha. But from now on, they can walk through its majestic interiors and learn about its rich history, architecture, and democratic significance, thanks to the newly launched "Vidhana Soudha Guided Walk" tour. The programme was inaugurated on Sunday, marking a major step toward opening the state's power centre to the public on general holidays. Citizens, students, and foreign tourists can now explore the landmark under this initiative.

Each group will be accompanied by trained guides, tourist assistants, and security personnel. The tour script, developed by tourism experts, covers the building's Dravidian-style architecture, the inscription "Government Work is God's Work," and other elements symbolising democratic values.

"Vidhana Soudha is democracy's temple. This tour isn't for leisure; students must gain civic responsibility and dreams for the future from their visit
– Tourism Minister HK Patil.

Guides narrate Vidhana Soudha's architectural legacy to visitors

Tour Booking and Entry Details

Booking: Available on KSTDC website or via certified ticketing partners
On-Spot Booking: Allowed at Gate 3's KSTDC counter (subject to availability) from June 1
Entry Days: All Sundays, and 2nd & 4th Saturdays of each month
Timings: Morning till 5 PM
Group Limit: 30 visitors per slot, with a maximum of 300 per day
Tour Duration: 50 minutes
Languages: Kannada and English
Start Point: Vidhana Soudha Gate No. 3
ID Requirements: Valid ID card, mobile number, and email mandatory
Foreigners: Passport
Students: School ID
Arrival: Be present 20 minutes before the scheduled time

Speaker UT Khader said the tour aims to make Vidhana Soudha more accessible to the public and foster political awareness. "We have colleges that produce doctors, engineers, lawyers, and bureaucrats but none that prepare good public representatives. Hence, we are considering establishing a political science college," he said. Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti supported the idea.

Tourism Minister HK Patil described Vidhana Soudha as the "temple of democracy." He emphasised that the initiative is more than a sightseeing experience. "Every student who completes this visit must return with a sense of purpose, civic responsibility, and a dream for the future," he said.

Highlights of the tour include the stone pillar inaugurated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Assembly and Council halls, the main entrance, the Banquet Hall, and the Speaker's gallery. Visitors can also admire the grand staircases and statues of iconic leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Dr BR Ambedkar, Kengal Hanumanthaiah architect of Vidhana Soudha Jagadguru Basaveshwara, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, and Goddess Bhuvaneshwari.

The initiative blends education with immersive experience, offering citizens a rare chance to engage with the heart of Karnataka's democratic legacy.

Lawyer duped by AI scam

A 38-year-old advocate was duped by cybercriminals who allegedly lured him into investing in a Trump Hotel rentals scheme using an AI-generated video of US President Donald Trump promising high returns, police said on Monday.

The incident came to light on May 6, when the victim approached the Haveri Central Crime Police Station with his complaint. According to his statement, he had come across a video on YouTube in January promoting an investment opportunity in "Donald Trump Hotel Rentals." Clicking the link led him to download a mobile app, where he submitted his bank details and paid Rs 1,500 to activate the account.

Initially, he received returns and, encouraged by the profits, invested further a total of Rs 5,93,240 between January 25 and April 4. Eventually, the returns stopped, and he was unable to recover his money.

Police said Rs 1.5 lakh from one of the accounts has been frozen. They urged the public to remain alert and avoid suspicious links. – PTI

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TANISHQ
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& R D Burman 1939 - 1994
BEETI HUI KUCH YAADEIN
Priyanka Mitra
Samanvitha Sharma
Shruti Bhide
Shurjo Bhattacharya
Kinjal Chatterjee
Govind Kurnool
Saxophone by Raj Sodha
Rhythm by Anupam Ghatak
Music Arranged by Srinivas Achar
in association with QMINDS
Story Teller : Rashmi Shetty
Story Spotter : Gaurav Sharma
6.00pm Sat. 7th June 2025, Chowdiah Memorial Hall , Bengaluru
Tickets: Rs 2360, 2065, 1770, 1180, 767 & 499
(GST included wherever applicable)
Tickets Booking at : 984 544 7130
Official Hospitality Partner Holiday Inn
Powered by Indus business academy
Print Partner SPECTACULAR MMT
Online Ticketing Partner bookmyshow
Curated by MAAM Entertainment

A day of lethal crashes: Blood on city's roads

A 38-year-old man lost his life after his bike collided with a truck on NICE Road near Ulala Bridge on Sunday, around 10.50 am. The deceased has been identified as Anil Kumar N. According to the Jnanabharathi Traffic Police, Kumar was riding at high speed towards Magadi Road when he crashed into a truck in front of him. The impact caused Kumar to lose control of his motorcycle, resulting in a fall that inflicted severe head injuries. Although he was wearing a helmet, the injuries proved fatal.

19-year-old killed in collision

A 19-year-old died after a speeding canter struck his scooter near the Muslim Refugee Enclave in SMV Layout, on Sunday around 1.30 pm. The deceased, identified as Balaji, and a resident of Ullal Basti, was riding his scooter when the canter rammed into him at a turning point near the Muslim crematorium on Dodda Basti Main Road. According to police, the canter driver failed to slow down or notice the scooter approaching from Dodda Basti Lake. Passersby rushed the injured Balaji to Vijaya Hospital in an ambulance, but doctors declared him dead.

Teenager killed in fatal collision

A 19-year-old died in an accident on Magadi Road 10th Cross around 4 pm on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Praveen, a resident of Magadi Road 9th Cross. He was riding an electric two-wheeler at the time of the incident.

According to initial reports, Praveen was struck by a goods vehicle, driven by Mohammad Ali (40). The impact of the collision was severe, and Praveen succumbed to his injuries on the spot. The accused vehicle has been seized, and the driver has been taken into custody. **BMB**

Say cheers, but spread fear

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bengaluru last year were tied to alcohol consumption. And the numbers are only rising.

According to police data, in the past two years, in Bengaluru itself there were 600 and more cases reported related to cruelty by husband. Experts point out that alcohol doesn't cause violence, but it often acts as a catalyst, loosening inhibitions and amplifying aggression in already volatile individuals.

"It gives a kind of twisted permission to act out unchecked anger," says Dr.Lakshmi Shashikumar, psychologist, Maayra Emotional Wellness Centre, "And unfortunately, the victims are usually those closest — wives, children, parents."

Dr.Lakshmi further explained that alcohol addiction often

Experts point out that alcohol doesn't cause violence, but it often acts as a catalyst, loosening inhibitions and amplifying aggression in already volatile individuals

begins subtly, triggered by stress, family conflict, peer pressure, or learned behaviour, and can develop within just a few months of regular use. "While the addict bears the direct impact, the consequences ripple through the entire family. Homes once seen as safe spaces may turn into places of fear, instability, and emotional turmoil. Addicts may exhibit mood swings, anxiety, depression, or even aggression.

Financial strain caused by addiction—such as drained savings and mounting debt, further fuels conflict within the household. Ultimately, alcoholism doesn't just harm the individual; it tears apart families and undermines the foundation of domestic life," she said.

Violence due to intoxication is not confined to homes. Several instances of violence have been reported in public spaces too. A few months ago, in an incident near Bilishivale Circle, a woman was stabbed by an intoxicated man after she refused to give him money for alcohol. The accused, Anand, attacked her with a knife.

In yet another such case, two painters were arrested for allegedly killing their friend after a drunken brawl in Amruthahalli on May 8. The altercation turned violent when the trio, after drinking, got into a fight.

Drunk driver rams barricade, injures cops

A drunk driver rammed his car into a police barricade, injuring a traffic constable on duty, around 1.40 am on Sunday, near Jyothi Nivas College in Koramangala.

According to Adugodi Traffic Police, the accused, identified as Nandakrishna, a retired driver, was behind the wheel of a car that entered a one-way stretch from Microland Junction towards Jyothi Nivas College Junction at high speed. Police Constable Srinivas BN, who was deployed on night patrol duty, signalled the car to stop.

Instead of complying, Nandakrishna allegedly drove recklessly towards the barricade and struck it with force, causing injuries to the constable's left leg and hand. The front of the car, including both side bumpers and the front bumper, was severely damaged. Another parked vehicle also suffered damage due to the impact.

The police attempted to question Nandakrishna, but he reportedly refused to cooperate, hurling abuses and refusing to open the car window. Eventually, police had to break the car's windshield to take him into custody.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Abhijith Srihari Kdur Anilkumar S/o, Anil Kumar S Kadur R/o Flat No 101, Avs Paradise No 168, 3rd Main Samruddi Enclave,Subramanyapura, Bangalore 560061 have changed my name to Abhijith Srihari for all purposes.

I Shaikh Hamida Begum Shabbir W/O, Moin Baig R/o No. 300, 5th Cross, Sadiq Layout, Ashwath Nagar, Thanisandra Main Road, Near Sadiq Masjid, Bangalore - 560077 have changed my name to Hamida Begum Shaikh.

I, Prabhakar Rao Nanjundaiah, aged about 76 years, Residing atF 240, Brigade 7 Gardens, Paduka Mandira Road, Uttarahalli, Subramanyapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560061 PRABHAKAR RAO NANJUNDAIAH and PRABHAKARA RAO NANJUNDAIAH PATTAVARDHAN pertains to one and the same person and its me only vide affidavit dated 21/05/2025 before notary S R THULASIKRISHNA, BENGALURU

I Hemalatha Shri Harsha W/O, Lakshmi Narayana Shri Harsha R/o No 1/3, 6th Main Road, V V Mohalla, Mysore-570002 have changed my name to Hema Harsha.

I, Rohit Dangi R/o 708 Sandeep Square Apartment Gear Road Bhoghanahalli Opp Embassy Tech Village Backgate Panathur 560103 have changed my minor son's name from Adhvik to Adhvik Rohit Dangi for all purposes.

I Tulsi Baskar Ramamurthy W/o, Parashuram Sundaramoorthy, Residing at, No 264, 4th cross, 2nd Block, RMV 2nd stage, Bengaluru 560094. have changed my name to TULSI PARASHURAM for all purposes.

I, SUWARNA SAWANE residing at B505, Bren northern lights, Prakruthinagar, Jakkur, Bengaluru-560064. I have changed my name to SUWARNA PIYUSH MANMODE. Vide affidavit dated 23/05/2025 sworn before notary. KODI NAGAPPAYA Bengaluru

I, Pavani M V S D/o. Moorthy M V S / W/o. Raghavendra Y, R/o. E-702, Rohan Akriti, Gubbalala Village, Subramanyapura Post, Bangalore 560061. After marriage I had changed my name to "PAVANI R" for all purposes vide Affidavit IN-KA38535149037100X.

I Chandrashekara Ramaiah S/o, Ramaiah.M, Residing, No 02, chigarada Marappa Bayamma Road, petrol Bunk Opposite, dhanalakshmi Layut, thindlu Main Road, kodigehalli, Bengaluru 560097. have changed my name to chandrashekar Ramaiah for all purposes.

I, NEETU KUMARI, W/o Vivekanand Vishwakarma, R/at Flat #103, Block-1, Wing A, CLPD Arcadia Apartment, Chikkabellandur, Carmelaram Post, Bengaluru-560035 have changed my name to NEETU VISHWAKARMA, vide affidavit dt: 26.05.2025 before notary Meer Hassan, B.lore.

I, NASEER AHEMMED, Residing at 28/1, 1st Main Road, B Cross, New Guddadahalli, Bangalore – 560026, have changed my name to NASEER AHMED, vide affidavit dated 25/04/2025, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, Saanaavi Mrutunjaya Muley D/o Mrutunjaya Muley R/o C-3, 2nd Floor, Devkinandan Apts, 80, 30th Cross, Jayanagar, 560041 have changed my name to Saanaavi Muley for all purposes.

I, Saraswathi Sathish Prabhu W/o Satish Prabhu Halady R/o 24, Evantha Kusthubha, Flat No 102, Ratnavilasa Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore 560004 have changed my name to Saraswati Satish Prabhu Halady for all purposes.

I, Rishi Kumar Agarwal s/o Ajay Kumar Agarwal R/o R167, Brigade Parkside East, Hadosiddapura road, Sarjapur road, Bengaluru 560035 have changed my name to RISHI AGARWAL affidavit Dt.26/05/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, HINAL PRAKASH KUMAR JAIN residing at Flat-3A, Mathrushree apartment,RV Road, VV Puram,Bengaluru-560004. I have changed my name to HINAL JAIN. Vide affidavit dated 26/05/2025 sworn before notary. KODI NAGAPPAYA Bengaluru

I Yashila Poonacha (alias) Yashila Shivram W/O, Jaikishen Virwani R/o Flat No 11, Embassy Palace, No 16 Cunningham Road, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore - 560001. Karnataka have changed my name to Yashila Jaikishen Virwani.

I, RAKSHITHA SIDDHANT SHETTY residing at E114, Kremlin SJR Palazza city, Doddakannalli, Bengaluru-560035. I have changed my name to RAKSHITHA RAVINDRANATHA RAI. Vide affidavit dated 23/05/2025 sworn before notary. KODI NAGAPPAYA Bengaluru

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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All lakes of Bengaluru East polluted

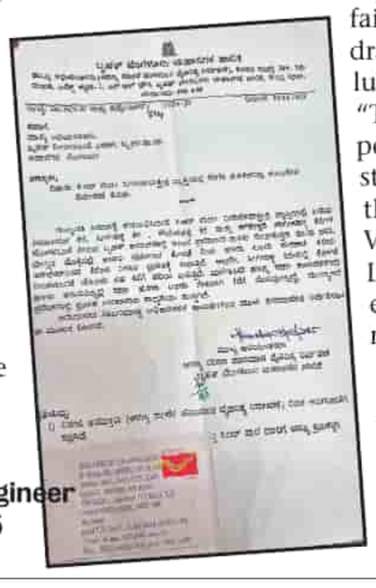
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

nuisance for the people who visit for a walk in the morning and evening.

"We have been complaining to the BBMP Lakes Department about sewage entering the Kowdenahalli Lake through the storm water drain. We requested the Executive Engineer to take measures to prevent the flow of sewage into the lake. I think the Executive Engineer wrote a letter to the storm water drains department. I expected some measures to keep the lake clean but nothing has been done to protect the water body," said Shivalinge Gowda, Vice President, KR Pura Kere Maththu Parisara Samrakshana Trust.

Expressing concern over the pollution of Kowdenahalli Lake, C Narayanappa, president of KR Pura Kere Maththu Parisara Samrakshana Trust, said the lake is full of garbage, plastic, and sewage. "It is painful to see the lake in this condition. All the efforts of BBMP Lakes Department and the volunteers got wasted. I demand the BBMP Lakes Department fix the problem without any delay," said Narayanappa.

According to the document available with the Bangalore Mirror, the BBMP Chief Engineer (Lakes) had written a letter to the BBMP Chief Engineer (Storm Water Drains) on March 3, advising him to take measures to remove the silt from the storm water drains. "A large quantity of silt, garbage and sewage enters Kowdenahalli Lake, Vibhuthipura Lake, Seegehalli Lake through the storm water drains during monsoon. I advise you to direct the authorities concerned to desilt the storm water drains," the letter read.



The letter written by BBMP Chief Engineer (Lakes) to the Chief Engineer (SWD) on March 3, 2025

BBMP Executive Engineer (Lakes) Nithya said the storm water drains department has failed to desilt the drains that are polluting the lakes. "They desilted a portion of the storm water drain that connects to Vibhutipura Lake," said the executive engineer.

Meanwhile, BBMP Chief Engineer (Storm Water Drains) was not available to comment.

 # A role David Tennant wanted
Former 'Doctor Who' actor David Tennant says he wanted to play the role of Reed Richards in the upcoming Marvel film 'The Fantastic Four: First Steps'

Alia's favourite

B-Town star respects this actor and wants to act with him

Alia Bhatt's red carpet debut at Cannes Film Festival 2025 turned heads not just for her stunning high-fashion look but also for her candid conversation with Brut India. The Jigra star revealed her admiration for Malayalam cinema's powerhouse Fahadh Faasil,

naming him among the actors she truly respects and looks up to.

Alia expressed great admiration for Fahadh Faasil as an artist, praising his talent and mentioning that she is a big fan of his performance in the film Aavesham.

She also shared her eagerness to collaborate with him someday.

Alia's admiration for Malayalam cinema goes beyond Fahadh. She also praised her Darlings co-star Roshan Mathew, calling him a fantastic actor who has made a mark in both Malayalam and Hindi films. She expressed her gratitude for having the chance to work with him and appreciated Malayalam cinema's consistent reputation for delivering quality films.

When asked about regional boundaries in Indian cinema, Alia emphasized her belief in art as a unifying force. She explained that she doesn't see any regional differences, highlighting how the pandemic taught everyone that we are all connected. With the rise of international streaming platforms, she pointed out, audiences now have the incredible opportunity to enjoy stories from all over the world, breaking down traditional barriers. Alia shared how streaming services have transformed her viewing habits, allowing her to explore films beyond traditional borders. She recently watched an Oscar-winning Philippine animated film, which left a strong impression on her.

—ETimes

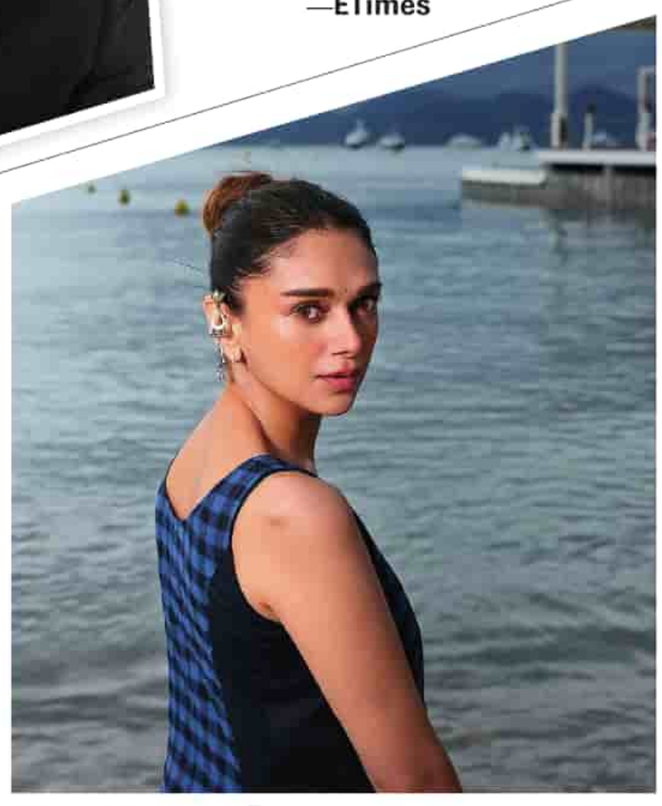
Taha honoured

Making a strong mark on the global platform, actor Taha Shah Badussha was honored with the 'Influential Actor of the Year' award at Cannes 2025.

Taha bagged this prestigious award for his memorable performances in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's "Heeramandi", and Gajendra Ahire's "PARO".

Spilling his excitement following the win, Taha wrote on social media, "Grateful for this global honor Thank you, WIBA Awards!". As "PARO" was screened at the Cannes during the Marché du Film, Taha said the opportunity to showcase his work on a global platform means the world to him. "Grateful and humbled to be part of a story that truly matters. It's an honour to present Paro at the Marché du Film, Festival de Cannes a film that sparks an important conversation and reflects a powerful reality," he said. Taha added, "This opportunity to showcase our work on a global stage means the world to me..."

—IANS



Roller Coaster ride

Actress Aditi Rao Hydari recently shared a heartfelt reflection on her brief but eventful trip to the Cannes Film Festival, where she embraced joy and spontaneity despite facing a stormy day. Taking to Instagram, Aditi posted a series of beautiful photos capturing her standing barefoot on a beach, with the sea and a pier stretching behind her under a sky heavy with grey clouds.

In the pictures, Aditi looked effortlessly stylish in a blue outfit that combined checkered and floral patterns, her hair neatly tied in a bun. Aditi opened up about how her visit to Cannes was like a roller coaster, filled with ups and downs. On the one stormy day she spent there, the sun was nowhere to be seen, and many around her wore worried expressions.

Instead of letting the gloomy weather dampen her mood, she chose to find her own sunshine. She tied up her hair, slipped off her sandals, and walked along the beach, making circles in the sand and calling out to the sun. Sharing the pictures she wrote, "In Cannes despite all odds My short trip to Cannes was a roller coaster this year! … and then the one day I spent there was a stormy rainy day, not a peep from the sun and many worried faces! So I set out to find my sunshine on a rainy day- Tied up my hair, threw off my slippers and walk out on to the beach to make circles in the sand... called out to the sun and the sun obliged."

—ETimes

Across industries

Actress Seerat Kapoor has managed to prove her mettle in both Tollywood and Bollywood with her powerful performances. When asked about her experience working in both industries, the diva shared that the uniqueness of both these industries has helped sharpen her as an artist.

Seerat said, "Each industry has sharpened a different part of me as an artist. The South film industry has given me opportunities to play characters charged with emotional depth, in turn, encouraged me to experiment with my screen presence and chose characters that have helped me understand myself better as an actor. Bollywood has showcased me in a more glamorous, subtle but layered light. This contrast has taught me when to be feisty and when to let silence speak. It's inspiring to be part of the movies at a time when regional cinema is only growing in global recognition. Audiences today appreciate good storytelling, no matter the language. At the end of the day, cinema is emotion and whether it's told through a Telugu lens or a Hindi film, the goal is always to entertain, move with purpose, and impact people. That's what drives me..."

—IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Illicit ties

Neethi, a suspense thriller, is set to arrive in theaters shortly. Rajagopal from KGF debuts as an independent director in Sandalwood with Neethi.

Kushee Ravi of Dia fame plays the lead in the movie. Gautam Manivannan has bankrolled the movie under the Director's Cut Production banner.

"I was born and brought up in Kolar Gold Fields. I have worked as associate director for a few Tamil movies. I am debuting as a director in Sandalwood with this movie. I thank producer Gautam Manivannan for giving me this chance," said Rajagopal. The director said the movie was shot for 28 days at Nelamangala. "We selected a house for the shooting. The movie is about the incidents that take place at the house at night. We shot between 6 pm and 5 am. The movie has turned out well. All the cast and crew have worked hard," the director said.

He said the movie is about illicit relationships. "Crime news on illicit relationships inspired me to write the script for this movie," he said.

My Hero on OTT

The movie My Hero created a buzz among the moviegoers when it was released in August 2024. It received rave reviews from critics and got appreciation from movie buffs. Its cast included local and international actors.

The other specialty of the movie is that it explores places in Madhya Pradesh that were not explored by any Kannada movie till date. Avinash Vijaykumar made his debut as a director in Sandalwood with this movie. Vijaykumar, apart from handling the megaphone, had bankrolled the movie. The movie was screened at various film festivals in many countries. Now, it is set to be streamed on Amazon Prime from May 30. "The movie explores the emotional journey of a family dealing with a loved one's memory loss. Alzheimer's is a significant global problem. The movie was nominated for Sweden Film Awards, Hollywood International Golden Age Festival, and Nashville Independent Filmmakers Festival," said Vijaykumar.

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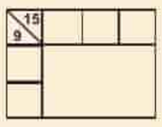
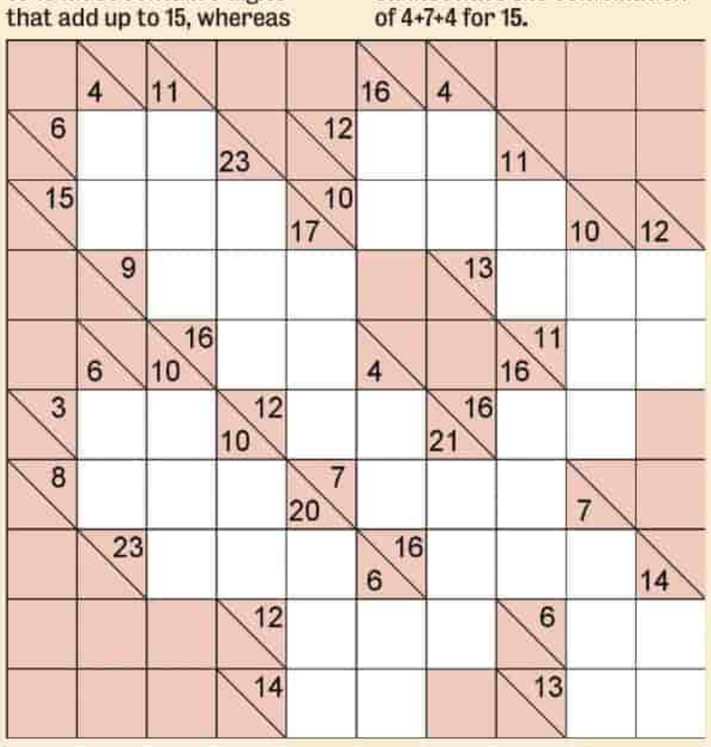
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

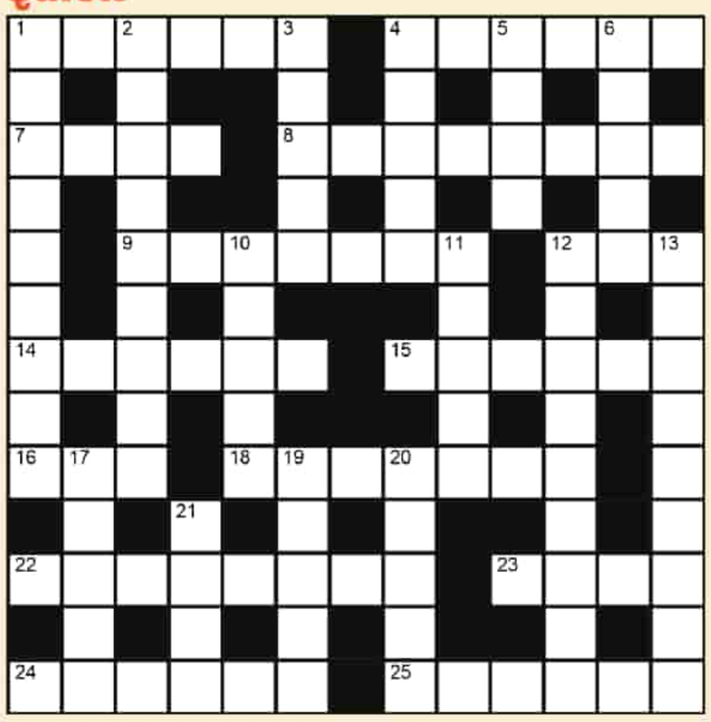
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 A printed cotton fabric (6)
4 Slew (6)
7 A returning sound (4)
8 ____ board : notice board? (8)
9 Jayachamaraja Wodeyar ____ : Last king of Mysore and first Governor of Karnataka (7)
12 Roman bronze (3)
14 Keep (6)
15 Leisurely walk (6)
16 South in Seville (3)
18 Commodities bought from a foreign country (7)
22 Longfellow's brave (8)
23 Large luxurious car (4)
24 Tangle up as in net (6)
25 Come into view (6)

DOWN

1 Animals (9)
2 Populated (9)
3 Striped animal (5)
4 Himachal Pradesh's ___ Valley (5)
5 Herb related to the onion (4)
6 ___ Zola : Nana's author? (5)
10 Caribbean Republic (5)
11 Revolving mechanism (5)
12 Lead _ ___ ___ : have a miserable existence? (1,4,4)
13 Grandeur or magnificence (9)
17 Alliance or marriage (5)
19 Contest or event (5)
20 City in Japan (5)
21 Sickly sentimental (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: K EQUALS U

AYDHXTDHA UYK ZEH TO AUOQ STXF XFH XTDHA, AYDHXTDHA UYK ZEH TO ZJIZOQH, AYDHXTDHA UYK ZEH CZXH.

Linemaro

I can guess your name. Is it Rose? That's how pretty you are

Mindchow

Not all those who wander are lost

Joke of the day

An optimist thinks this is the best of all worlds; a pessimist fears the same may be true

Loop

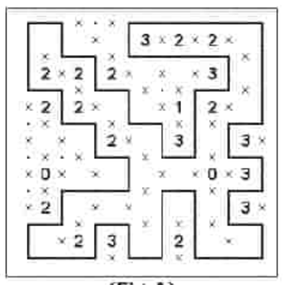
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

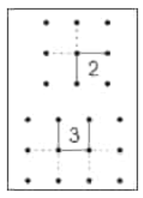
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

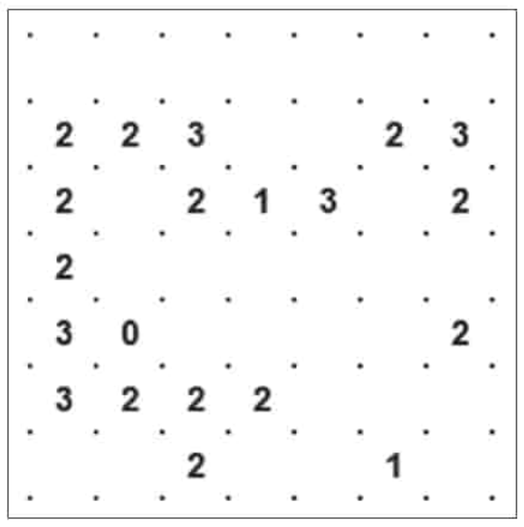
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., If you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



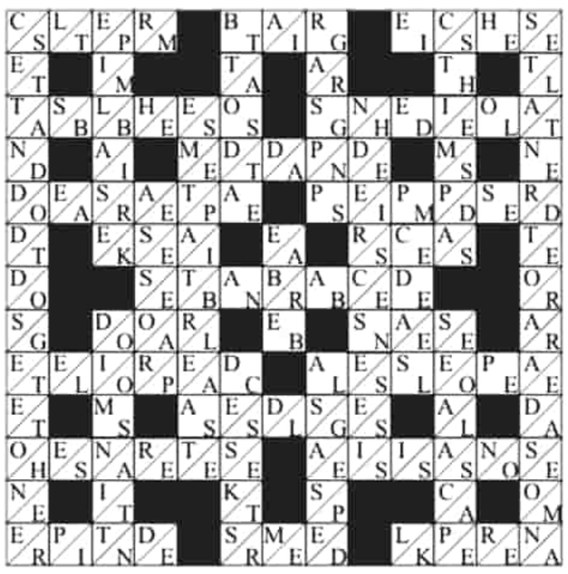
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9			C	

ACROSS

1 Scald; 6 To rob; 7 A Argo; 8 Is sir; 9 That C

DOWN

1 Chars; 2 Go Ali; 3 To bar; 4 Cord I; 5 SS Hat

Mensapuzzle

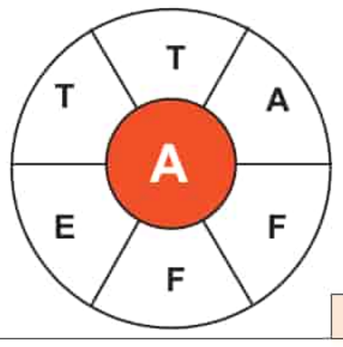
Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the final grid?

D	C	H	G
I	X	M	B
N	S	R	W

R	V	B	F
X	P	H	Z
D	J	N	T

J	S	Z	I
Q	L	G	B
X	E	N	U

O	C	K	Y
W	U	?	Q
E	M	A	I



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; **02** Good; **03** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		8				7		
3	7						1	2
6			2		8			4
	6	5	4		3	1	8	
	3	7	1		5	6	4	
7			6		4			8
8	1						7	6
		6				2		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 15

1 3 5 6

Medium = 10

6 6 5 2

Hard = 27

2 9 9 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

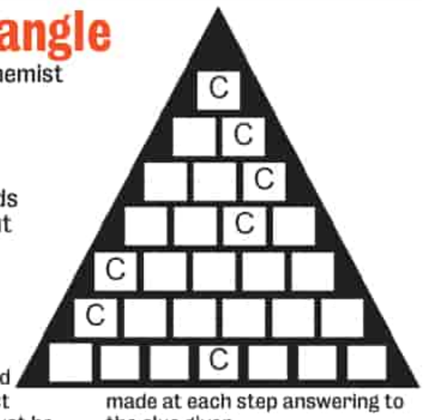
Differences: 1. Tie is missing. 2. Stripe is added to sleeve. 3. Badge is higher. 4. Finger is moved. 5. Doorway is wider. 6. Shirt collar is not showing.

Riddler

For each of the pairs of words below, insert a word in the blank space between them to form two separate words such that the inserted word finishes the first word and begins the second. For example, given "MAN ____ ON", you would insert the word "GO" to form "MANGO" and "GOON". The hint gives the number of letters in each of the words that must be inserted. WIN ____ HERE DISC ____ AGE TEN ____ OR ANT ____ LOCK SIN ____ SHIP

Alpha triangle

1 Carbon for the chemist
2 Account, abbr.
3 Animal pouch
4 Give the pink slip
5 Pastries
6 Floorboard sounds
7 Less tense or taut



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip

You didn't specify a FLAT round table.
CAMELOT CARPENTER'S LAST WORDS
Wayno & Piraro 2-18-25
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Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

GO BIRDS
SEE YOU AT TRACK PRACTICE, HEART! HAPPY TO HAVE YOU ON THE TEAM.
WHAT???
BZZ BZZ
MOM
OH! WHEN I WAS IN YOUR BODY, I SIGNED YOU UP FOR TRACK. YOU NEED MORE EXERCISE, HON!
MOM, NOOOOOO!!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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Crankshaft

THERE YOU ARE! I WAS WONDERING WHERE YOU WERE.
GETTING UP IN THE MORNING WITH MY BAD BACK TAKES TIME.
DO YOU WANT ME TO HELP BY PULLING YOU OUT OF BED?
NO!!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
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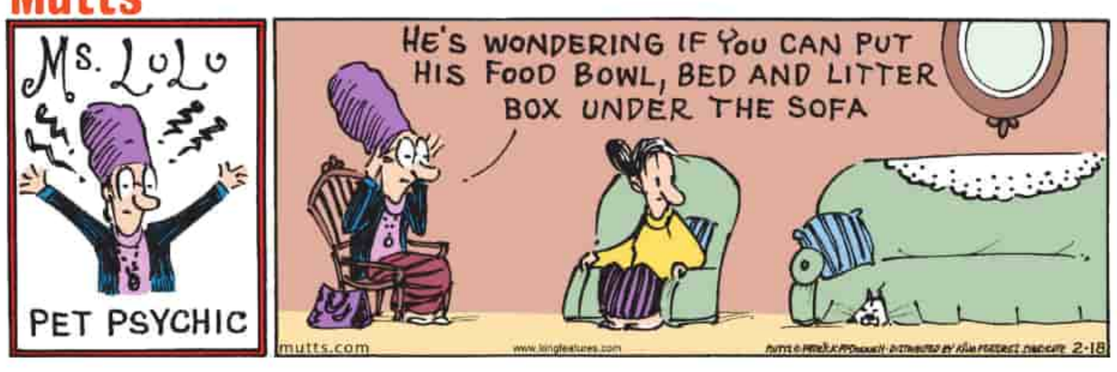
2-18

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, your subordinates may be cooperative, helping you complete long-pending tasks. You might attend a social event that could expand your network and benefit both your career and social life. An outing with friends may be on the cards, and past disputes may be resolved. Students are advised to avoid carelessness in their studies.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Your communication skills are likely to benefit you professionally. A polite and diplomatic approach will help speed up your projects. Lovebirds may share meaningful conversations, strengthening the foundation of their relationship.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
The Moon's blessings bring favourable energy. A new partnership could be financially rewarding. Your energy levels are high, and your hard work is likely to pay off. Maintaining your self-respect will help you stay clear of negative influences.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You may feel low or dissatisfied today. Avoid harsh conversations with friends and family, as they may escalate unnecessarily. Recognition for your hard work might feel lacking. Trust your intuition and remain patient while making important decisions.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
New income opportunities may arise today. Past investments could bring solid returns, boosting your financial standing. You may connect with a social organisation, enhancing your network. Singles could meet a potential life partner.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Elders' blessings may give you confidence. Trust your intuition when making work-related decisions—it may lead to financial gains. A visit to a religious place with family might bring peace. However, control arrogance to maintain harmony in domestic life. Students can expect positive academic results with a little help from destiny.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may receive unexpected gains in business, increasing both confidence and your bank balance. Avoid unnecessary stress at home. There could be progress in your professional life, and your reputation may improve. An overseas trip might also be planned.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today may feel unfavourable. You might experience anxiety or mysterious fears. There could be an increased interest in the occult. A lack of confidence may impact your performance. Avoid risky travel and adventure sports today.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
The Moon brings positivity and emotional warmth. Romance may flourish, and singles could find a meaningful connection. Professionally, you're likely to perform well, with strong support from friends and colleagues.

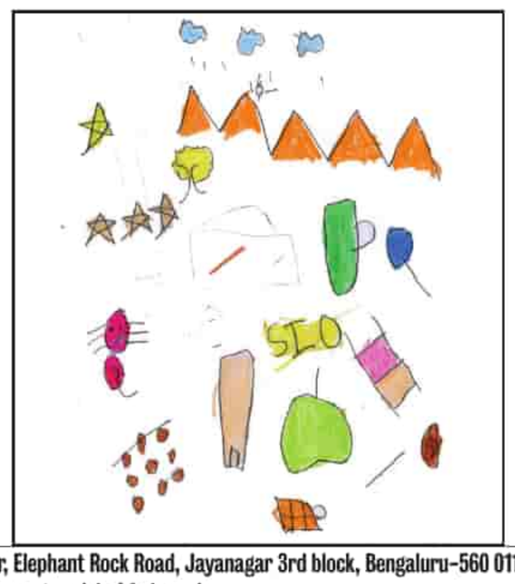
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You're likely to strike a balance between income and expenses, which may improve your savings. You could excel at work and possibly be assigned new responsibilities or earn a promotion. Money that was previously stuck may be recovered. You're in a strong position to handle opposition and hidden enemies.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You may feel fatigued due to lack of sleep, leading to scattered focus and reduced work efficiency. A visit to a religious place might offer some peace. By evening, elder blessings may help you recognise and correct mistakes, setting you up for a better tomorrow. Pay attention to your parents' health today.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You may feel rushed today—drive cautiously. Despite a hectic start, blessings from elders may help you resolve issues. Romance is likely to blossom, and domestic harmony will improve. New partnerships may show positive signs. Students might receive good news academically.

KIDZONE

Anushika, Bengaluru



Samrath, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER
NOW (winnow, nowhere), US (discus, usage), DON (tendon, donor), HEM (anthem, hemlock) & KING (sinking, kingship)

QUOTE UNCODE
Sometimes you are in sync with the times, sometimes you are in advance, sometimes you are late.

BULL'S EYE
fate, feat, TAFFETA

SOLVE IN 1M
= (3×2)(3×2)/36
= (6×6)/36 = 36/36 = 1

FAST FIVE

C	L	A	D	S
R	O	B	O	T
A	G	O	R	A
S	I	R	I	S
H	A	T	C	H

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
5. In each grid, start in the top left and move down, then right one space and up etc. In a snakes and ladders pattern. Letters advance through the alphabet in steps of 5 for the top left grid, 6 for the top right, 7 for the bottom left and 8 for the bottom right.

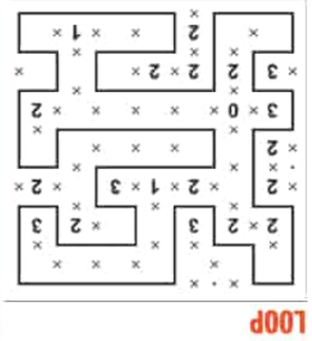
SUDOKU

5	4	6	8	3	7	2	9	1
8	1	3	9	5	2	4	7	6
7	9	2	6	1	4	3	5	8
2	3	7	1	8	5	6	4	9
1	8	4	7	6	9	5	2	3
9	6	5	4	2	3	1	8	7
6	5	1	2	7	8	9	3	4
3	7	9	5	4	6	8	1	2
4	2	8	3	9	1	7	6	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
C, AC, SAC, SACK, CAKES, CREAKS, SLACKER.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 + 5 + 3 + 1 = 15
Medium
6 \ 6 x 2 x 5 = 10
Hard
2 x 2 x 9 – 9 = 27

LOOP



KAKURO

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Bangalore: [Hebbal, Vidyaranyapura]: 9900027736 [Airport Rd, Kogilu]: 9900030617 Mysore Rd: 9900030620

Bharat Toyota
Bangalore: [Domlur]: 9741357683, 08047950000

Nandi Toyota
Bangalore: [Banashankari, Banaswadi, Bannerghatta, Bommanahalli, Whitefield]: 7022340713 Hosur Road: 9945255800 Kanakapura Rd: 9731369995 Queens Rd: 9741310066

Ravindu Toyota
Bangalore: [K R Puram, Magadi Rd, Marathahalli, Rajajinagar, Victoria Rd, Yeshwantpur]: 8058245555
Kolar: 9606090040
Tumkur: 9379189796

Shodha Toyota
Bagalkot: 8147599463
Belgaum: Shahapur: 8147599461 Poona-Bangalore Road: 7899305505, 7760963774
Bijapur: 9606484983
Davangere: 9008952277
Hubli: 7204818810, 8123047553

Palace Toyota
Hunsur: 9663709743
Kodagu, Madikeri: 7022671919
Mandya: 9538874907
Mysore: Hootagalli: 9538874906 Krishnamurthy Puram: 9538874936

Shakti Toyota
Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Kadur, Shivamogga: 9686652728
Sagara: 08183200402

United Toyota
Mangalore: [Bunt's Hostel, Padil]: 9686687581
Udupi: 9686687581

Karuna Toyota
Gulbarga: 7829990010
Raichur: 7829990021

BJS Toyota
Bellary: Hospet: 7829927943